



July 13, 2016

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Mr. Stephen C. Taylor
Commissioner, DISB
810 First Street, NE, Suite 701
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Mr. Taylor:

I am writing in response to a call for suggestions pertaining to the CareFirst settlement and how these funds can benefit citizens of the District of Columbia. The Capital Area Food Bank proposes a multi-year grant of \$3,000,000 to support the purchase and distribution of a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables through our core distribution and direct service programs in the District and nutrition education resources that will inform the use of fresh produce among our low-income clients.

As the largest non-profit provider of nutritious food in the greater Washington area, the Capital Area Food Bank is not only well-placed in historical and present service to the community, but in capacity to do more. In 2015, we provided over 4.6 million pounds of fresh produce and shelf-stable foods through our core and direct service programs to low-income seniors, children, families and individuals living in the District. Our larger vision is captured in Strategic Objective 2 of our five year strategic plan, which was adopted by our Board of Director on July 22nd, 2014. Capital Area Food Bank continues to evaluate hunger in our area, but not only are we committed to reducing the meal gap in low-income communities, we are committed to contributing to the health and wellness of those communities as we provide more nutritious food across greater Washington.

In the District, we work with 132 food assistance partners, including Bread for the City, DC Central Kitchen and Martha's Table. We administer direct service programs serving 66 Grocery Plus and 26 Sr. Brown Bag sites, providing over 4,000 income-qualified seniors with groceries each month. Eleven Family Market sites, 32 Kids After School and 23 Kids Summer Meal sites, 20 Weekend Bag Sites, and 21 Joyful Food Markets serve thousands more families and children. Added to these are 23 Mobile Market sites and one farmer's market style Community Marketplace.

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/CapitalAreaFoodBank
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capitalareafoodbank

Together we can solve hunger™

Many of our direct distribution programs are in partnership with District government:

- The Office on Aging supports the Commodity Supplemental Food Program and the Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program;
- The Office of the State Superintendent of Education supports The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), summer and afterschool meals; and
- The Department of Health supports the Joyful Food Market program through a Healthful Food Access Initiatives Grant.

Our clients tell us they want more fresh fruits and vegetables and we know that the choice and preparation of good, healthy foods is the gateway to good health. With the high incidence of diabetes and heart disease found in our client population in the District, the simple act of flooding the community service "market" with high vitamin and nutrient-rich produce, particularly when it is so sought after, is one great way to cut down on both bad health outcomes and health care costs, which can run up to \$100,000 per year for a patient who develops diabetes, by changing the habits that lead to these community health challenges.

The history of the Capital Area Food Bank is one of responsiveness to the needs of the low-income community in the District of Columbia, where the food bank was founded in 1980 and where we continue to maintain our headquarters. We look forward to the opportunity to describe more fully how CareFirst settlement funds can serve citizens of the District, promoting wellness in both the choice of foods and the preparation of an abundance of fresh, wholesome produce.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Nancy E. Roman". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Nancy E. Roman
President & CEO